

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: VERIZON RHODE ISLAND
TARIFF FILING**

:
:

DOCKET NO. 5074

ORDER

On October 1, 2020, Verizon Rhode Island (Verizon) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for increased rates to certain traditional telecommunications package offerings. The filing also increased rates for subscribers to measured lifeline service.¹ Order No. 19540, approving Verizon’s Successor Alternative Form of Regulation Plan (Successor Plan), presented a settlement between Verizon and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. In that order, the Commission allowed Verizon pricing flexibility, but required Verizon to continue offering measured lifeline service to customers at a charge of \$1.00 per month. This means that when Verizon increases rates, it must also increase any discount for this service to maintain the \$1.00 per month rate.²

During discovery, the PUC asked about this provision, prompting Verizon to amend its tariff just for measured lifeline service. The amendment increased the credit applied to the proposed rate with the intent to comply with the Order No. 19540 requirements.³ On October 26, 2020, Verizon filed a second amendment to further increase the measured lifeline credit so that customers will still be charge \$1.00 on their bill for this service.⁴

¹ Verizon’s Tariff Filing (Oct. 1, 2020); [http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-Verizon-TariffChangeNo.15%20\(10-1-20\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-Verizon-TariffChangeNo.15%20(10-1-20).pdf).

² Order No. 19540 (Jan. 21, 2009); [http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/3692-VRI-Ord19540\(1-21-09\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/3692-VRI-Ord19540(1-21-09).pdf).

³ Verizon’s Amended Tariff Filing (Oct. 13, 2020); [http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-VRI-TariffAmendment%20\(10-13-20\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-VRI-TariffAmendment%20(10-13-20).pdf).

⁴ Verizon’s Tariff Second Amended Filing (Oct. 26, 2020); [http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-VZ-%20Tariff%20Filing%20Amed%20%20\(10-26-20\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-VZ-%20Tariff%20Filing%20Amed%20%20(10-26-20).pdf).

Under the approved Successor Plan, the Division is required to review Verizon's filing for consistency with Order No. 19540. The Division filed a memorandum indicating that the amended tariff is consistent with the order.⁵

None of Verizon's amendments affected other service offerings. The tariff for all other service offerings was filed at least 30 days prior to the proposed effective date of November 1, 2020, so there is no notice problem for those services. In addition, under the second amended the measured lifeline service will not be increasing, so there is good reason to approve the second amended tariff for those customers to ensure their rate is consistent with the Commission's order, despite the fact that it was filed within thirty days of the effective date.

At an Open Meeting held on October 28, 2020, the Commission reviewed the record and approved the second amended tariff for effect November 1, 2020, finding it to be consistent with Commission Order No. 19540.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23938) ORDERED:

Verizon Rhode Island's tariff, filed on October 1, 2020, as amended on October 26, 2020, is hereby approved for effect on November 1, 2020.

⁵ Division Mem. (Oct. 20, 2020); <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5074-DIV-Memo%2010-20-20.pdf>.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON OCTOBER 28, 2020. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON OCTOBER 29, 2020.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairperson



Marion S. Gold, Commissioner



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner

Notice of Right of Appeal: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within 7 days from the date of the Order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or Order.